



# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Phone: (703) 351-7676

6 January 1986

Ms. Meg Greenfield  
Editor of the Editorial Page  
WASHINGTON POST  
1150 15th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20071

Dear Ms. Greenfield:

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Former CIA contractor David MacMichael in a letter to the editor published on 4 January 1986 incorrectly claims that no "credible evidence" existed of Nicaraguan involvement in the passage of arms to Salvadoran insurgents during his association with CIA from March 1981 to May 1983.

Intelligence analysts in the CIA and in the rest of the Intelligence Community disagree with Mr. MacMichael. During the period Mr. MacMichael was a contract employee of the Agency, credible evidence from sensitive intelligence sources indicated a Nicaraguan role in providing arms support to the Salvadoran rebels, and that evidence continues to mount to the present day. Furthermore, the Intelligence Community's documentation of Nicaraguan complicity appears to have satisfied the intelligence oversight committees of both houses of Congress.

For Mr. MacMichael to imply that the entire Intelligence Community and the Congress were somehow dupes of administration policy is an attack on the credibility and professionalism of both institutions, an attack which is as irresponsible as it is unwarranted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "George V. Lauder".

George V. Lauder  
Director, Public Affairs